

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

Periodic Reporting
(Proposal Nine)

Docket No. RM2017-13

CHAIRMAN'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 1

(Issued October 10, 2017)

To clarify the Postal Service's petition to consider a change in analytical principles, filed September 29, 2017,¹ the Postal Service is requested to provide written responses to the following questions. Answers to each question should be provided as soon as they are developed, but no later than October 17, 2017.

1. Please refer to Proposal Nine. The Postal Service states that "[f]or city letter routes in ZIP Codes that are not included in the ODIS/RPW digital sampling frame, the current methodology of manually sampling DPS mail would continue, and those estimates would be combined with the digital DPS estimates to produce the distribution key for DPS mail used to apportion street activity costs to categories of mail in Cost Segment 7 (CS7) of the CRA." Petition, Proposal Nine at 2-3.
 - a. Please confirm that the sets of variables observed through the manual and digital sampling procedures relevant to DPS mail are identical. If not confirmed, please discuss the differences between the two sets of variables. Please provide, for each of the two sampling procedures, the list of the observed variables that are relevant to DPS mail.

¹ Petition of the United States Postal Service for the Initiation of a Proceeding to Consider Proposed Changes in Analytical Principles (Proposal Nine), September 29, 2017 (Petition).

- b. Please describe the methodology the Postal Service plans to use to combine the estimates from the manually sampled CCCS DPS mail data and digitally sampled ODIS-RPW DPS mail data.
- 2. Please refer to Docket No. RM2015-11. The Postal Service explained that it sought to digitally sample most mail characteristic data for approximately 9 percent of Mail Exit Points (MEPs).² The Postal Service selected MEPs for digital sampling based upon certain criteria. See Docket No. RM2015-11, Responses to CHIR No. 1, question 1a.
 - a. Please confirm that the criteria used to determine the MEPs for digital sampling is the same criteria discussed in Docket No. RM2015-11, Responses to CHIR No. 1, question 1a. If not confirmed, please provide the current criteria the Postal Service uses to select the MEPs for digital sampling.
 - b. Please provide the number and the percentage of MEPs where the Postal Service collects ODIS-RPW data digitally.

By the Chairman.

Robert G. Taub

² Docket No. RM2015-11, Petition of the United States Postal Service Requesting Initiation of a Proceeding to Consider a Proposed Change in Analytical Principles (Proposal Three), July 14, 2015, Proposal Three at 3 (Proposal Three Petition); Docket No. RM2015-11, Responses of the United States Postal Service to Questions 1-4 of Chairman's Information Request No. 1, July 31, 2015, question 1c (Docket No. RM2015-11, Responses to CHIR No. 1).